

**Minutes of the Blanchard River Watershed Partnership
Board of Directors meeting 6:00 - 8:00 pm.
Hancock County Engineer's meeting room
February 8, 2017, Findlay, OH**

E. Reynolds presiding, Bob Connour recording.

Present: B. Connour, T. Macke, D. Croy, P. Martin, C. Kirchner, D. Kozlowski, E. Reynolds, B. Doyle

Welcome and Introduction

- The meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm. by E. Reynolds.
- The previous meetings minutes were approved by an email vote. (6-0)
- E. Reynolds passed around a sheet asking everyone to provide her with their preferred method of contact.

Financial Report

- T. Macke presented a financial report and accompanying documents and went through them with the group.
- He reported all detailed balances, expenses, and transactions.
- B. Doyle motioned to accept the financial report and D. Croy seconded. It passed unanimously.

Old Business

- **Strategic Plan**
 - B. Doyle reviewed the update of the strategic plan.
 - The Board spent significant time discussing the strategic plan, including specific point within and what were the timelines to be.
 - It was discussed how certain things within the plan have already been completed, and the timelines on certain other points were adjusted.
 - It was a discussion of how to increase board meeting effectiveness by having committees meet before the board and provide committee reports to the board.
- **2017 Projects**
 - P. Martin presented a review of the 2017 projects, including a handout.
 - He asked if there were any corrections and/or deletions. No changes were offered.
- **Ohio Northern University grant**
 - P. Martin presented a letter from Dr. Spiese at Ohio Northern University about water sampling on Earth Day, April 22, 2017.
 - P. Martin reported that Dr. Spiese is looking for volunteers to collect water samples at all the TMDL sites. There are 120 sites.
 - Martin pointed out that collection bottles would be passed out to each volunteer. The collected samples would be returned to ONU for testing.
- **Streamside Systems Sand Wand Project**

- P. Martin stated that there would be a meeting concerning Streamside System's Sand Wand Project with Ohio EPA on Friday, March 3rd in Bowling Green.
- **Rain Barrel Contest**
 - P. Martin reported about the upcoming rain barrel contest at the Findlay Village Mall on February 9 - 12, 2017.
 - He noted that the barrels would be picked up from the schools on February 9th and 10th.
 - He informed the board that Jane McCleary and others would have the "Kid's Display" on Saturday and Sunday.
 - P. Martin said the he still needed help in covering the contest. He said he would send the sign-up sheet out by email again.
 - P. Martin said he still there is still a need for sponsors for the contest.

Committee Reports

- **Education Committee**
 - P. Martin reported the committee had met on February 26th. S. Myers was elected chairperson.
 - The committee reviewed the Strategic Plan timeline as it applied to the committee. It was decided to form 4 sub-groups: 1. Task #17 Stewardship, 2. Tasks #23 & #24 Advocacy, 3. Tasks #25 Community Presentation and 4. Tasks #26 Education Program
 - P. Martin provided each board member with 2 copies of the brochure, "We Are the Blanchard River Watershed Partnership" the committee had printed. The brochure will be added to our hand-out materials.
 - P. Martin reported the committee will look at our present panels being used in our display and decide about any need updates.
- **Stewardship Committee**
 - P. Martin mentioned that the committee met on January 30, 2017. A review of the Strategic Plan was accomplished.
 - P. Martin mentioned that short term and long term fundraisers where discussed.
 - The main goal of the committee will be update the fundraiser plan for the group.
- **Community Advisory Committee**
 - E. Reynolds noted that the CAC committee would have three groups by watershed regions: 1. Headwaters, 2. Western and 3. East-Central. The Headwaters region will include Bluffton to Kenton and the area in between. The Western region will include Ottawa, Pandora and the surrounding area. The East-Central area will include Findlay and the area in Hancock County.
 - T. Macke reported that the Western region group hopes to have their first meeting in March.
- **Membership Committee**

- The membership committee has not yet met but will do so on Thursday, February 23rd at 9:00 am. at Owens Community college. NOTE: This meeting is changed to Wednesday, February 22nd at 5:15 pm.

New Business

- **Community Foundation Training**
 - E. Reynolds reported that she went to some training at the Findlay-Hancock Community Foundation. She noted the BRWP is signed up for some more training.
- **2017 River Clean-ups**
 - P. Martin asked about doing river clean-ups in 2017. A discussion followed about holding a river cleanup in Ottawa and Findlay.
 - Martin noted the University of Findlay work day would be August 19, 2017.
- **On-line Donations**
 - E. Reynolds mentioned that we should look into being able to take donations online. The board asked her to look into doing it.
- **Possible Canoe Trips**
 - E. Reynolds suggested that we should look into another canoe trip. We could invite elected officials and other agencies.
- **Memorandum of Understanding**
 - E. Reynolds asked whether we want to enter into a memorandum of understanding with the park district regarding the work she is doing with them.
 - It was discussed that there is a current MOU with the park district is in place and that we need to look into how to handle this.
 - Discussions were had about MOU's that the BRWP has and how we need to get clarification on them all.
 - It was decided to have the Executive Committee look at the MOU's

Coordinators Comments

- P. Martin presented a handout and went through it with the group.
- P. Martin talked about all active, potential, and ending grants.
- Discussions were had throughout about the comments.

Other business

- **In-Kind Log**
 - P. Martin reminded everyone that we need to keep good track of our in-kind mileage and time. He asked that any volunteer time not placed on a meeting or project sheet be kept on the log sheet that was passed out.
- **Starter Thoughts for CAC meetings**
 - D. Kozlowski sent out a document on thought starters for the Community Action Committee. He spoke briefly about this.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:41pm.